

"The Greatest Story Ever Told"

ST. IGNATIUS RESIDENCE
PORTLAND



Two Christmas Programs

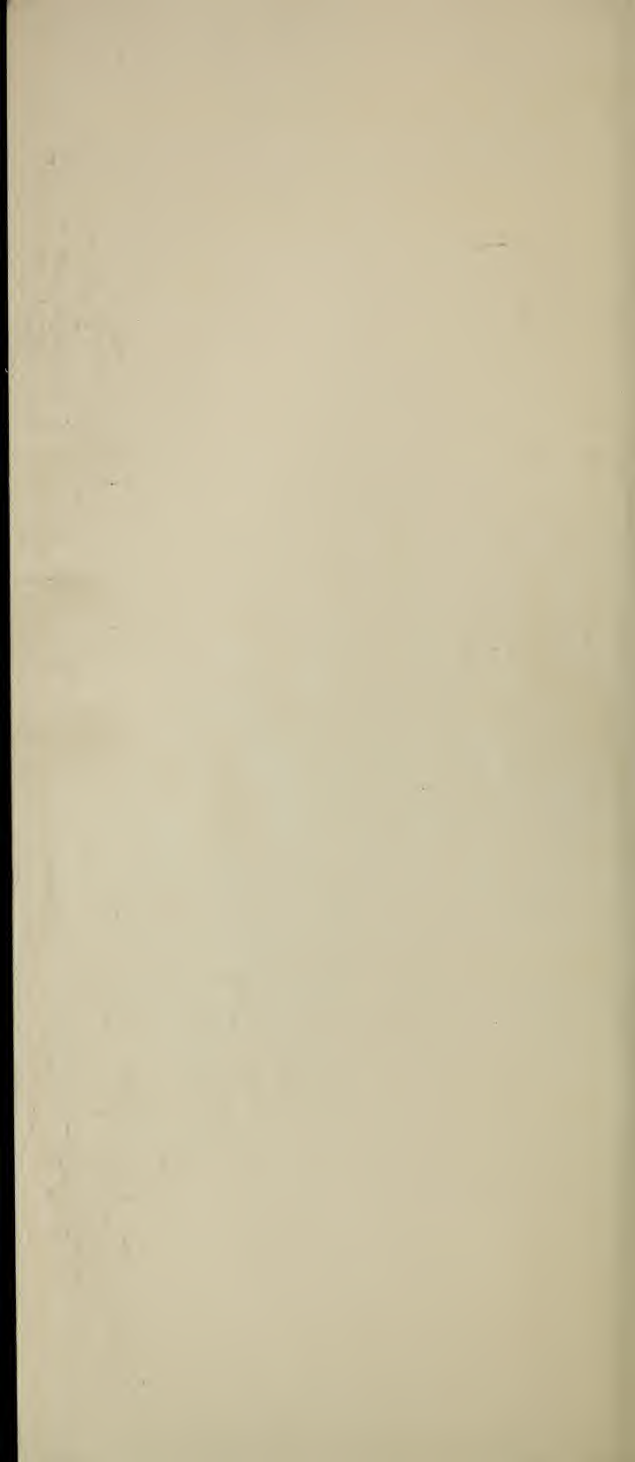
broadcast on

Sunday, December 24

and Sunday, December 31, 1950

ABC Network — 5:30 P.M., E.S.T.

(The scripts shown here are final versions of the two programs. There may, of course, be slight changes required as the production of the program is rehearsed, but any such changes will not affect the theme or spirit of the program as shown in these scripts.)



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THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

"UNTO YOU, THIS DAY"

Narrative and Quotation

St Luke 2: 1-20

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD
"UNTO YOU, THIS DAY"

PROGRAM #164

DECEMBER 24, 1950

CAST

NARRATOR

DANIEL

JONATHAN

EZRA

REBECCA

JOSEPH

GABRIEL

SENTRY

VOICE

WOMAN

MUSIC: _ _ 10 SECONDS _ _ _ _ _

NARRATOR: The Greatest Story Ever Told.

MUSIC: _ _ 5 SECONDS PUNCTUATE _ _ _ _ _

NARRATOR: Presented by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

MUSIC: UP FOR 15 SECONDS - SEGUE TO 1-A
_ _ _ _ _ FADE TO 1-B AND 1-C _ _ _ _ _

NARRATOR: This afternoon we present "Unto You, This Day" the first of two Christmas season dramas about the birth of that Child who was to live the greatest life ever lived.

MUSIC: _ _ UP. SET THEME FOR NARRATION _ _ _ _

NARRATOR: (CUE) It was a bad time. The heavy hand of Caesar was on the people. In the towns and the cities there was fear in the air. Even far from the towns and cities there was uneasiness. High up in the hills of Judaea two shepherds stood watch over their flocks. But even amid the green hills there was no peace there. Not in the soft sound of the sheep nor in the rustling sound of the light wind as it set the leaves and grasses to gentle trembling. But the shepherds looked beyond their flocks and down into the valley. And what they saw set fear stirring in their hearts. Finally one of them raised his crooked staff to point toward the valley and he said anxiously --

SOUND: (AT # SET BACKGROUND SOUND OF SHEEP BAAING. HOLD DOWN)

DANIEL: (APPREHENSIVE WHILE WATCHING) A cloud of dust, Jonathan. The whole valley is a cloud of dust.

JONATHAN: Yes. (BEAT) And the dust rises as though it were stirred by many hooves and many feet.

DANIEL: It comes from the road. Is that what you meant to say, Jonathan?

JONATHAN: Yes, Daniel.

DANIEL: Then you think as I do.

JONATHAN: If you mean it looks like armies are on the move, yes, I think the same.

DANIEL: Perhaps we should go further up into the hills.

JONATHAN: To save the sheep?

DANIEL: Yes, when war comes who is it feeds Caesar's army? We do. The sheep and the lambs we risk our lives to protect from wild beasts are torn from our arms by Roman soliders. And even to try to hold onto them can mean death.

JONATHAN: If it is an army down there we should move up into the hills.

DANIEL: Then let's not waste an instant. Come --

JONATHAN: I said if it's an army --

DANIEL: What else could it be?

JONATHAN: I don't know. Look down there --

DANIEL: I've already looked.

JONATHAN: But look a long time -- watch -- study carefully --

DANIEL: (WHILE LOOKING) Yes?

JONATHAN: Do you see the glinting of shiny steel or silver? Do you see spears glistening in the sun?

DANIEL: No. But then there is so much dust.

JONATHAN: I thought of that, too. The dust might obscure the shiny metal. But there is something else missing, too.

DANIEL: What?

JONATHAN: The sound of trumpets. Do Romans ever move in silence? No. They want the whole world to know and hear and tremble at the sound of their trumpets. Yet we hear nothing.

DANIEL: I hadn't thought of that before. Strange -- an army that would move in silence.

JONATHAN: So it may not be an army at all.

DANIEL: It must be. The road is covered with them. I think we should lead the sheep further up into the hills. Why run the risk?

JONATHAN: Yet why disturb the ewes so close to giving birth to their lambs, unless there's good reason? We must do what's best for the sheep. I shall go down there.

DANIEL: (FEARFUL) Down there? It could be dangerous.

JONATHAN: I shall go down and see what this strange thing is.

DANIEL: Then stay out of sight -- keep away from Caesar's men -- human life means nothing to them.

JONATHAN: I'll be careful, Daniel. Don't worry.

DANIEL: And try to be back before dark.

JONATHAN: I'll try. (FADING) Don't worry, Daniel. I'll be back.

DANIEL: (SOFTLY AS IN PRAYER) God be with you, Jonathan. God be with you.

MUSIC: _ _ _ BRIDGE #2 _ _ _ _ _

SOUND: (BACKGROUND OF BAAING SHEEP)

JONATHAN: (CUE) (OFF MIKE CALLING) Daniel -- Daniel --

SOUND: (SHEEP SUDDENLY SET TO EXCITED BAAING)

DANIEL: Now, now -- easy -- it's a friend, a friend. It's Jonathan. Easy.

SOUND: (BAAING BECOMES MORE SETTLED AND FADES TO BACKGROUND)

JONATHAN: (FADING ON) Daniel -- Daniel -- you wouldn't believe it. (REGAINING HIS BREATH) No, Daniel, you wouldn't.

DANIEL: It is an army that moves silently, then.

JONATHAN: No, Not an army at all. Unless women and children and tired old men with feet dusty and bleeding from the hard road, are an army.

DANIEL: Women? Children? Old men? What are you talking about?

JONATHAN: Yes, that's what it is. That cloud of dust you see now is our people. Moving as in a terrified sleep. Stunned -- all of them. Rooted up from their homes and sent out on the road.

DANIEL: Where are they taking them? To another land?

JONATHAN: No. I watched a while behind the safety of a huge rock. When I was sure there was no danger I went to the edge of the road itself. There I spoke to some of them.

DANIEL: And what did they say?

JONATHAN: They must go back and be counted.

DANIEL: Counted? For what?

JONATHAN: For the tax. It's Caesar's order. Everyone must go back to the place where he was born. And his wife and children must go with him. It's the law.

DANIEL: Whole families sent out on the road that way?

JONATHAN: Yes. That's the cloud of dust down there.

DANIEL: How could they do it? Children -- old men and women -- torn from their homes that way.

JONATHAN: If it were only the children and the old it would be bad enough.

DANIEL: What do you mean?

JONATHAN: When I saw it first I felt a choking in my throat -- my hands went round the staff in such anger my knuckles were white. And I thought of what we'd said. Of how we'd decided not to move the sheep because the ewes were ready to drop their young.
(BEAT) Caesar thinks less of people than we do of our sheep.

DANIEL: You mean -- women close to giving birth are down there, too? I -- I don't believe it.

JONATHAN: It's true. True.

DANIEL: How could they send them out on the road like beggars at such a time?

JONATHAN: The first one I saw was a woman, strong and healthy. But then came another one -- sweet of face -- and frail. Seated on a donkey she was. And a tall man held the reins and guided the donkey gently. Around a rock here and a stone there so that the animal wouldn't stumble and the young woman wouldn't be disturbed.

DANIEL: That's good. Her discomfort must have been bad enough as it was.

JONATHAN: (SLOWLY AND STRANGELY) I don't know.

DANIEL: What do you mean?

JONATHAN: There was something in her face. A glow of peace and contentment which seemed to radiate even through the dust and the noise and the crying of children. Her time was near but there was no fear in her, no sign of pain or suffering. I can't forget her nobility, her courage. (IN STRANGE AWE) I looked at her a long

(Continued)

JONATHAN: time -- a very long time. Then she
(Cont'd) was already gone and other faces
crowded past me in the dusty air,
yet I remembered hers. Till the
sound and the turmoil drowned out
the moment of calm that came and
went with her. That's when I turned
back and started to climb back up
the hill.

DANIEL: Jonathan -- you talk so strangely --

JONATHAN: Do I?

DANIEL: Yes.

JONATHAN: I -- I don't know, Daniel. I never
felt this way before.

DANIEL: It must have been the effect of what
you saw.

JONATHAN: Yes, it was all strange.

DANIEL: People herded like cattle. How long
can it go on? How long? We were
promised a Saviour. Where is He?
We were promised deliverance, where
is that? Must we be ground under
the heel of Caesar forever? The
sheep we raise are not our own.
They are Caesar's whenever it
pleases him to say the word. What
kind of world is that? If the
Saviour is ever to come it must be
soon -- soon ... Else it will be too
late. (BEAT) Jonathan, are you
listening to me?

JONATHAN: Eh? What?

DANIEL: Jonathan -- here -- look at me.
What is it?

JONATHAN; I was thinking -- of her -- the girl on the donkey. I found myself worrying about her ... Where will she spend this night? I was wondering about that.

DANIEL: You should think of the sheep. It's getting dark. We must gather them against the night. Come. (BEAT) Jonathan, I said come.

JONATHAN: (STILL IN A REVERIE) Yes, Daniel -- yes.

MUSIC: _ _ BRIDGE #3 _ _ _ _ _

EZRA: (CUE) Rebecca -- come, my dear -- away from the door. Haven't we had enough of travelers trying to stop at this inn and no room for them?

REBECCA: I wonder where they've all gone?

EZRA: Who knows? To camp in the fields outside the town, most likely.

REBECCA: Whoever thought so many of them would come back here to Bethlehem?

EZRA: When Caesar orders the whole world moves.

REBECCA: If our inn were larger we could have given more of them shelter. The little ones -- their eyes heavy with sleep -- clutching so desperately to the hands of their mothers and fathers. It's the little ones my heart goes out to.

EZRA: (GENTLY) Rebecca -- you mustn't get to thinking about children again. You know it comes only to tears each time.

REBECCA: Yes, Ezra -- I know.

EZRA: Then come inside. Let me lock the door so no more travelers can beg for a night's shelter and be turned away. People must think there's no heart in an innkeeper -- that he likes to turn travelers away. The look in their eyes. I feel like a criminal. So come. Besides, you're tired. You need the rest.

REBECCA: Not yet, Ezra.

EZRA: Not yet? It sounds as though you're waiting for something -- for someone --

REBECCA: No ... (BEAT) It's the stars.

EZRA: The stars?

REBECCA: Yes, Look up at them.

EZRA: Well, what of the stars?

REBECCA: Don't you see?

EZRA: See? Rebecca -- what is it?

REBECCA: (ENTRANCED) Tonight -- tonight the stars are different.

EZRA: (CONCERNED) Different? How?

REBECCA: They are -- they just are, that's all.

EZRA: Please, Rebecca, you frighten me when you talk that way.

REBECCA: I'm not frightened. The stars are different tonight and yet it does not disturb me. The heavens seem peaceful somehow -- and brighter ... And within me there is a good feeling.

EZRA: Perhaps in times like these there's peace only in the heavens. But come Rebecca, let me lock the door before we're besieged by travelers again.

REBECCA: In a little while —

EZRA: But you're tired. Tomorrow you'll have to rise early again to feed more guests than we have ever had before. It's only you I'm thinking of.

REBECCA: Then let me watch a little while longer —

EZRA: There's always time to watch the stars -- another night.

REBECCA: They won't look the same, Ezra, never the same.

EZRA: Please, Rebecca — don't talk that way.

REBECCA: It's true.

EZRA: Rebecca, let me close the —

SOUND: (TINKLING OF BELL AND LIGHT HOOF-BEATS OFF MIKE)

EZRA: There, you see. Travelers and now they'll curse me out for being greedy. As though I have room and deliberately withhold it.

REBECCA: Can you see them? How many are there?

EZRA: One bell is one donkey. (WHILE PEERING INTO DARKNESS) And there is a woman on it. And a man leads it. Come, Rebecca, there may still be time to —

JOSEPH: (INTERRUPTING FROM OFF MIKE) Inn-keeper -- friend, is that you standing in the doorway?

EZRA: (DOWN) You see, Rebecca. He'll ask for room and there is no room. (UP) Yes, I'm the innkeeper. What is it?

JOSEPH: Do you have room for some tired travelers?

EZRA: Room? All Judaea would like to sleep in my little inn this night. There is no room. None at all. Our own bed is given over to travelers and we must sleep on a handful of straw in the kitchen.

JOSEPH: Please, sir, I wouldn't ask again except that --

EZRA: (INTERRUPTING) Except that you don't believe me. Is that it?

JOSEPH: Have I said such a thing?

EZRA: No, but so many others have this night that I know the words even before I hear them. But there is no room.

JOSEPH: Any place -- any place where my wife could find shelter from the night air and the dampness of early morning. I wouldn't ask except that -- well, draw near and you can see for yourself.

EZRA: What do you mean?

REBECCA: Ezra! Wait -- I can see. Ezra, we must make room for her.

EZRA: But where? You know as well as I --

REBECCA: (QUICKLY) Wait — wait, Ezra, there is room. A dry place — and warm, too.

EZRA: What?

REBECCA: Yes, Ezra, the stable.

EZRA: The stable?

JOSEPH: Even that will do if it's sheltered. And please, there is no time left -- no time.

EZRA: Of course you may use the stable. There's fresh straw there. You can make a bed for her.

REBECCA: Straw? Ezra, she must lie on linen. Fresh linen.

EZRA: Linen? In a stable?

REBECCA: She shall lie on linen, fresh and clean and soft. A woman needs every little comfort we might give her in a time like this. Please, Ezra?

EZRA: Yes, Rebecca. The finest linen we possess.

REBECCA: Come, my dear, I shall see you're made comfortable. Come.

SOUND: (DONKEY HOOFBEATS. LIGHT TINKLE OF BELL)

JOSEPH: She's a fine woman, your wife.

EZRA: Yes, a fine woman. Of good heart -- and always giving. And every child which is born hereabout is as her child. (BEAT) For you see, friend, we have none of our own.

JOSEPH: (IN SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING) Oh.

EZRA: Yes, so Rebecca takes her joy in the children of others.

JOSEPH: Perhaps it was meant to be -- in just this way --

EZRA: What did you say, friend?

JOSEPH: It was something you might not understand now. But, please, don't call me friend in that friendless way. My name is Joseph.

MUSIC: BRIDGE #4 SEGUE TO PEACEFUL BACK-
- - - - - GROUND FOR NEXT SCENE - - - - -

SOUND: (BAAING OF SHEEP IN BACKGROUND)

DANIEL: (CUE) Jonathan -- Jonathan -- do you sleep yet?

JONATHAN: No, Daniel.

DANIEL: It's still in your mind, isn't it? What you saw down there by the road this afternoon.

JONATHAN: Yes. When I close my eyes I see those tired people struggling along that road -- so I can't close them. I can only keep them open and stare up at the heavens. At the blue sky and the stars. Just look up there, Daniel. The heavens -- such blue should be silken velvet gracing the fairest woman who ever lived.

DANIEL: (SOFTLY) Perhaps it does.

JONATHAN: Daniel -- what did you mean by that?

DANIEL: (PUZZLED AT HIS OWN WORDS) I -- I don't know. The words seemed to come from my lips even before I thought them. It was though I'd spoken with the voice of someone else.

JONATHAN: Then you must feel it too.

DANIEL: What?

JONATHAN: The strangeness of this night.

DANIEL: There is something strange in it. Unless it be what you described to me earlier. Since you've come back everything has seemed to be different.

JONATHAN: And yet it isn't. It can't be. Why look up at the heavens -- this night is like any other. The stars -- each in its place -- the sky, the blue of the season -- the sheep here content and drowsing -- why should it seem different to -- (STOPS. THEN IN SUDDEN AWE) -- Daniel!

DANIEL: Yes, Jonathan?

JONATHAN: The sky -- it's not the same. A new star -- a new light -- there, you see?

DANIEL: A new -- (STOPS. THEN IN WHISPER OF AWE) Jonathan!

JONATHAN: Such a light as this I've never seen before -- (IN AWE) -- Daniel -- Daniel.

MUSIC: BRIDGE #5A-5B-5C-5D - IN TO ANNOUNCE
- - - - - ANGEL AND TO BACKGROUND OF SHIMMER -

GABRIEL: (CUE) (DEEP ETHEREAL VOICE FROM FAR OFF AND IN ECHO) Fear not --

DANIEL: (GASP OF SURPRISE)

JONATHAN: (WHISPER) I heard it, Daniel. I heard it, too.

DANIEL: (WHISPER) A voice -- from out of the heavens.

GABRIEL: (CUE) Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

JONATHAN: (WHISPERING THE WORD) Saviour?

GABRIEL: (CUE) And this shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

MUSIC: BRIDGE #5E AND 5F CHORUS IN FULL
- - - - - VOICE OF HOLY PRAISE - - - - -

GABRIEL: (CUE) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

JONATHAN: (CUE) (AWED WHISPER) Daniel, the heavens have opened!

MUSIC: BRIDGE #5G AND 5H FULL CHORUS TO REPRESENT THE VOICES OF ANGELS.
- - - - - THEN FADE TO BACKGROUND OF SHIMMER - - - - -

DANIEL: (CUE) Manger -- I heard the voice say it -- manger.

JONATHAN: You heard it too. Saviour -- manger -- the city of David.

DANIEL: Wait, Jonathan, perhaps it didn't happen. Look about you -- the sheep have not moved. They heard no strange voice -- no singing of angels.

JONATHAN: Such things are not given to sheep to hear.

DANIEL: But how can we be sure?

JONATHAN: It came from the heavens -- in a voice few men have ever heard before. How can we doubt it?

DANIEL: Would the word of God come to us -- lowly shepherds who tend a flock in the hills? Who are we but simple men?

JONATHAN: No, Daniel, wait. The voice spoke of the city of David. Think, what was David once but a shepherd boy? And didn't God touch him and make him great among men, a king over our people? So that now the very Bethlehem that lies below us in the valley is known as the city of David. The voice came to a shepherd before. This night it has come again.

DANIEL: It did happen before.

JONATHAN: And the voice said the Child is born in the city of David. Then we must go and see -- we must find Him -- now, at once.

DANIEL: Find Him? Where -- how -- do we go through the city crying out in the dead of night, "Is a child born here?" How many babes are born this night in Bethlehem? Didn't you yourself speak of the many women with child who were driven out to wander the road? How could we find the one Child out of all them?

JONATHAN: "And this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe lying in a manger." Come, Daniel, come, we must find that Child.

MUSIC: _ _ BRIDGE #6 (QUEST MONTAGE) _ _ _ _ _

SENTRY: Halt -- who goes there?

JONATHAN: We are two shepherds come out of the hills.

SENTRY: Shepherds, eh? Come forward and stand in the light of this torch.

SOUND: (FEW STEPS ON STONE)

SENTRY: Aye, you look like shepherds but with a whole country on the move a sentry can't be too careful. What do you want in Bethlehem?

JONATHAN: We seek a Child.

SENTRY: Child? At this hour of night? What Child?

JONATHAN: You don't know? You haven't heard of the Child?

SENTRY: This man's daft. The way he talks -- you, there.

DANIEL: Yes, sir?

SENTRY: If this man's your friend take care of him. He needs looking after.

DANIEL: Sir, may we enter the town?

SENTRY: I don't know if I should let you.
(BEAT -- PAUSE) Well, you might as well. It seems half the world's inside these gates already. Go on in -- but mind you -- no disturbance -- no trouble.

DANIEL: Yes, sir.

MUSIC: _ _ _BRIDGE #7_UP AND DOWN_FOR_ _ _ _ _

SOUND: (CUE) (DOOR KNOCK)

DANIEL: (CUE) But Jonathan, we've tried so many places already.

JONATHAN: We must find Him.

SOUND: (DOOR KNOCK)

DANIEL: We've wakened people and --

SOUND: (DOOR UNLATCH AND OPEN TO INTERRUPT)

VOICE: (SLEEPY AND IRRITABLE) Who knocks at this time of night? What do you want here?

JONATHAN: We seek a Child -- new born and lying in a manger.

VOICE: A Child -- lying in a manger? What is this nonsense? On your way and leave decent people to their sleep.

SOUND: (DOOR SLAM)

MUSIC: _ _ _ BRIDGE #8 UP AND DOWN FOR _ _ _ _ _

SOUND: (CUE) (DOOR KNOCK)

DANIEL: (CUE) Jonathan, please, the sentry will come after us if we keep disturbing people.

JONATHAN: We must find the Child.

SOUND: (DOOR KNOCK)

WOMAN: (OFF MIKE BEHIND DOOR) Who is it out there?

JONATHAN: Tell us, woman, is there a Child here -- a new born Child?

WOMAN: (FEARFUL) Why do you come here?

JONATHAN: We seek a Child -- new born.

WOMAN: New born -- how did you know? What do you want with the child?

JONATHAN: Does it lie in a manger?

WOMAN: In a manger? Are you out of your senses? Pity the child so poor it must lie in a manger. Now, go -- be on your way.

MUSIC: _ _ _ #9 UP AND DOWN FOR _ _ _ _ _

SOUND $\frac{1}{2}$ (CUE) (DOOR KNOCK. PAUSE, THEN AGAIN)

DANIEL: (CUE) Jonathan, we should go back to the hills. This is madness.

JONATHAN: No, Daniel -- not till we find Him.

SOUND: (DOOR KNOCK)

EZRA: (SLEEPY VOICED AND BEHIND DOOR)
Eh? What is it? If you seek room here, there is none. There's been no room in this inn since early evening. Go away.

JONATHAN: Wait, Innkeeper. We didn't come asking for room. But seeking a Child -- a new born Child.

EZRA: Be on your way.

JONATHAN: There's no Child here? New born and lying in a manger?

SOUND: (SUDDEN AND DISTINCT SLIP OF BOLTS. DOOR OPEN)

EZRA: Who are you?

JONATHAN: Only shepherds come out of the hills.

REBECCA: (FADING ON DAZED AS FROM INTERRUPTED SLEEP) Ezra -- What is it, Ezra? Is there trouble?

EZRA: Rebecca -- two men here -- they say they're shepherds who've come seeking a Child which lies in a manger.

REBECCA: Of course.

EZRA: What do you mean?

REBECCA: The woman in the stable -- her Child. It would lie in a manger.

JONATHAN: There -- you see, Innkeeper. Now where is the Child -- where?

REBECCA: Go round to the side, sir -- to the stable -- there you'll find the Child.

JONATHAN: Come, Daniel -- come. (FADING)
Thank you, woman --

EZRA: Rebecca, how did they know? It's so strange.

REBECCA: Everything is strange this night, Ezra. Everything. When I saw the stars I felt it. When I saw her, I knew it.

MUSIC: - - - BRIDGE #10 - - - - -

SOUND: (CUE) (GENTLE KNOCK)

JONATHAN: (CUE) This time, Daniel, this time we find the Child.

SOUND: (DOOR OPEN)

JOSEPH: (VERY SOFTLY) You knocked, friend?

JONATHAN: Sir, a Child -- new born -- is it here?

JOSEPH: By the grace of God.

JONATHAN: Daniel, did you hear the words the man spoke?

DANIEL: (AWED) I heard.

JONATHAN: Sir -- tell us -- does It lie in a manger?

JOSEPH: He does.

JONATHAN: Then we must see Him. We must.
Please, let us in --

JOSEPH: Yes -- but quietly -- for the Child's sake.

SOUND: (SOFT FOOTSTEPS WITH LIGHT SQUEAK
OF BOARDS OF STABLE FLOOR)

JONATHAN: Shhh --

SOUND: (THREE MORE STEPS)

MUSIC: BRIDGE #11A, 11B AND 11C MOTIF
SYMBOLIZING MADONNA AND CHILD TO
-- -- -- -- BACKGROUND -- -- -- --

JONATHAN: (CUE) (REVERENT WHISPER) "The blue
should be silken velvet gracing the
fairest woman who ever lived."

DANIEL: It's what you said before, Jonathan,

JONATHAN: Daniel, the woman I saw before who
inspired those words -- this is she,
Mother of the Saviour. And this is
the Child. (BEAT) Only shepherds,
yet we are first to see the Child --
the Saviour --

JOSEPH: What word did you say, friend?

JONATHAN: Saviour --

JOSEPH: You know this too? How?

JONATHAN: It came to us in a voice from Heaven
-- out there on the hillside in the

(Continued)

JONATHAN: dead of night. This is He -- the
(Cont'd) Saviour -- born in the city of David
-- lying in a manger.

JOSEPH: All this a voice told you?

JONATHAN: All this and more -- Glory to God in
the highest and on earth peace,
good will toward men.

JOSEPH: Mary -- Mary -- did you hear?

JONATHAN: (PAUSE, THEN SOFTLY) Good lady,
I've said nothing to make you weep.

JOSEPH: Friend, some tears are good to weep
-- very good.

DANIEL: So much has happened this night --
so much. We must go and tell them
all -- all. Come, Jonathan, come -

JONATHAN: Wait, Daniel, first we must kneel
and adore Him. Look at Him -- was
there ever such a Child as This?
(BEAT) Daniel, we shall pray.

MUSIC: BRIDGE 11D UP BRIEFLY AND DOWN TO
- - - - - BACKGROUND FOR - - - - -

JONATHAN: And now we go, friend, to tell
everyone of the great thing which
has happened. Peace be to you both
-- and to the Child for all His life.

SOUND: (FEW STEPS FADE LIGHTLY)

JOSEPH: (PAUSE, AND ON CUE) Mary, Mary, did
you hear? They knew -- now everyone
will know. And the words Mary --
the words the Angel spoke -- Glory
to God in the highest and on earth
peace, toward men of good will.

MUSIC: BRIDGE #12 ADESTE FIDELIS FULL
- - - - - CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA - - - - -

NARRATOR: This program was brought to you by
The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.
Next week on this same network at
this time we will present "Flight
Into Egypt," the second of two
Christmas season dramas, part of The
Greatest Story Ever Told about the
greatest life ever lived.

MUSIC: _ _ _ CUSHION _ _ CLOSING _ THEME _ _ _ _ _



THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

"FLIGHT INTO EGYPT"

Narrative and Quotation *St. Matthew 2: 1-16*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.

Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him. In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet.

And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the Wise Men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When

they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt; and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the Wise Men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the Wise Men.

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD
"FLIGHT INTO EGYPT"

PROGRAM #165A

DECEMBER 31, 1950

CAST

NARRATOR

ASAH

HEROD

AKKUB

PRIEST

CASPAR

MELCHIOR

BALTHAZAR

EZRA

JOSEPH

MUSIC: _ _ _ 10 SECONDS _ _ _ _ _

NARRATOR: The Greatest Story Ever Told.

MUSIC: _ _ _ 5 SECONDS PUNCTUATE _ _ _ _ _

NARRATOR: Presented by The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

MUSIC: UP FOR 15 SECONDS - SEGUE TO 1-A
_ _ _ _ _ FADE TO 1-B AND 1-C _ _ _ _ _

NARRATOR: This afternoon we present "Flight Into Egypt", the second of our Christmas-season dramas about the birth of that Child who was to live the greatest life ever lived.

MUSIC: _ _ _ UP AND SET THEME FOR NARRATION _ _ _

NARRATOR: (CUE) The scene, the bustling city of Jerusalem -- a city of secrets which the oppressed pass among themselves concerning the oppressor. But one bit of gossip passes freely this day among all the people and among their oppressors as well -- and even now it has reached into the palace of cruel Herod who stands looking down from his balcony --

ASAH: Your Majesty sees something below in the streets?

HEROD: (PAUSE) Tell me what you said before --

ASAH: About the people?

HEROD: About those shepherds --

ASAH: Oh. That. Well, these shepherds were heard to be going about Bethlehem speaking about a Child -- a

(Continued)

ASAH: miraculous Child. Some said the
(Cont'd) shepherds were drunk -- but others
said they were inspired -- inspired
in a Holy way --

HEROD: And the Child -- what about the
Child?

ASAH: The shepherds were saying that the
Child was born to become King of
the Jews.

HEROD: (GRUNT OF DISDAIN)

ASAH: Surely, you don't believe that any
child born in Bethlehem of poor
parents could ever grow to be king
here?

HEROD: It happened to David, didn't it?
He was a poor shepherd, wasn't he?
He became a king!

ASAH: Those were other times, Herod. You
can't allow yourself to be upset by
every passing bit of gossip. Gos-
sip runs rife at a time when great
events are taking place. And this
order to go and be counted for the
Roman tax is such an event --

HEROD: Be quiet, Asah!

ASAH: (PAUSE) Your Majesty is troubled.

HEROD: Asah --

ASAH: Yes, Majesty?

HEROD: We must get to the bottom of this.
I want spies sent to Bethlehem im-
mediately -- I want inquiries made.
I want those shepherds brought here
-- to me! I'll find out what all
this talk about a king being born
really means.

ASAH: Majesty, your position is secure.
Why must you --

HEROD: (INTERRUPTING) A king's position
can never be secure. Do as I say
-- dispatch men to Bethlehem at --

SOUND: (HEAVY DOOR KNOCKING INTERRUPTS)

HEROD: Quickly, open the door it may be
more news --

ASAH: Yes, Majesty --

SOUND: (FEW STEPS. UNLOCK AND OPEN HEAVY
DOOR)

HEROD: (NERVOUS) Well -- come in, come
in! If you have word come in!

AKKUB: (FADING ON) Majesty -- Majesty --
news -- important news --

HEROD: Well?

AKKUB: Visiting dignitaries -- and we've
made no preparations to receive
them.

HEROD: Who comes visiting me? I'm expect-
ing no one. What are you talking
about? (SEIZES HIM) What are you
trying to do?

AKKUB: (CRINGING) Please, Majesty -- I'm
only telling you what happened.

HEROD: (RELAXING) Well, tell it all --
but quickly --

AKKUB: (RECOVERING) Majesty, three men
have come through the main gate of
the city this morning. They're
obviously important men -- not mere
travelers -- but emissaries from

(Continued)

AKKUB: another land. They're well dressed
(Cont'd) -- riding fine camels -- and one
camel is devoted to carrying fine
gifts beautifully wrapped --

HEROD: Gifts, eh? For me, no doubt --
they've come seeking a favor.

AKKUB: I don't think so.

HEROD: What do you mean, you don't think
so?

AKKUB: The way they talked -- our guards
followed them just to be sure.

HEROD: Well?

AKKUB: The three men didn't come to the
palace -- they went among the
people asking one question --

HEROD: And the question?

AKKUB: (FEARFUL) Majesty, I only quote
them --

HEROD: Speak up!

AKKUB: They asked -- Where is he that is
born King of the Jews?

HEROD: (GASP OF RAGE)

ASAH: Majesty, please --

HEROD: Take your hands off me, Asah. I'm
all right. (PAUSE) (THEN IN SUP-
PRESSED ANGER) Three men -- come
seeking the King of the Jews --

AKKUB: There was more, Majesty --

HEROD: More?

AKKUB: They -- they said they'd seen His star in the East and came to worship him --

HEROD: This must be gossip.

AKKUB: A captain of the guard heard it himself. Shall I bring him to you?

HEROD: Yes, at once. (PAUSE THEN QUICKLY)
No wait!

AKKUB: Majesty --

HEROD: Bring me the high priest of the temple first.

AKKUB: Yes, Majesty --

HEROD: And as for the three men -- I want them watched.

MUSIC: _ _ _ BRIDGE #2 _ _ _ _ _

PRIEST: What is it this time, Herod? Another order that will be painful to the people?

HEROD: You priests are always worrying. Well, this time I only want a little information about your religion -- your folklore --

PRIEST: They are not the same.

HEROD: Of course not. A badly phrased thought. About your religion, however, is there any prophecy about a king being born -- a special kind of king?

PRIEST: There is a prophecy --

HEROD: Yes?

PRIEST: We have been promised the Messiah.

HEROD: Messiah, eh? Tell me more.

PRIEST: It's nothing you'd like to hear.

HEROD: I'm interested -- tell me more!

PRIEST: The coming of the Messiah portends a new era in this world -- things will change -- governments will change -- (POINTEDLY) even kings can't stand against it.

HEROD: I see. This uh -- this prophecy -- does it say where this king will be born?

PRIEST: It could happen in only one place -- in the town of Bethlehem here in Judaea -- the prophecy says it must happen there.

HEROD: Bethlehem -- Bethlehem--- tell me, priest, do you believe the prophecy?

PRIEST: Does it make any difference if I believe it?

HEROD: That's no answer!

PRIEST: That's answer enough.

HEROD: It's insolence.

PRIEST: (SOFT BUT DIGGING) It's enough that you believe it, Herod.

HEROD: I didn't say I did.

PRIEST: Then what is there to be so fearful about? (BEAT) Am I free to go now?

HEROD: Get out -- get out!

PRIEST: (FADING. TONGUE IN CHEEK) Thank you, Majesty --

HEROD: (CALLING) Asah -- Asah!

ASAH: (BUSTLING ON) Yes, Majesty -- well, did he tell you? Is there a prophecy --

HEROD: Asah, the three strangers -- bring them here. Maybe I can learn something from them -- bring them to me!

ASAH: To seize three foreign dignitaries --

HEROD: I don't care how you do it -- bring them here. At once. No -- wait -- perhaps we can extract more from them by friendly means. We shall invite them to dine with me -- that's it, Asah. The three strangers shall dine with me.

MUSIC: _ _ _ BRIDGE _#3 _ _ _ _ _

SOUND: (EARTHEN DINNER DISHES. CUPS, ETC.)

HEROD: And so you came from your native land to visit Judaea --

CASPAR: (OLD, WISE, SOFT) May I correct your Majesty -- we came not from one land -- but from three lands -- each from a different place in the East.

HEROD: Three lands -- oh.

CASPAR: It's what made us even stronger in our determination to follow the star to our destination --

HEROD: Star -- you follow a star?

CASPAR: That's what makes us so sure. To each of us -- in his own land the star appeared at the same time --

(Continued)

CASPAR: some weeks ago. As it happens we
(Cont'd) are all of us students of the
heavens -

MELCHIOR: Yes, Majesty -- we are.

CASPAR: So each of us set out individually
to follow this star which appeared
so strangely in the skies. And it
brought us together so that to-
gether we came seeking the new-born
King of the Jews.

HEROD: I see.

CASPAR: Of course, Majesty -- we are deeply
grieved that we are here in your
presence with no suitable gifts --
we hadn't expected such a greeting
from the great Herod himself --

HEROD: But they tell me, Wise Men, that
you did come bringing gifts.

CASPAR: Those gifts -- for the new-born
King. Those we could not disturb.

HEROD: Could it -- could it all be a
fancy of some kind -- the star --
the new-born King -- how do you
know?

MELCHIOR: (SMILING) We've asked ourselves
that many times since we first
met in our journey --

HEROD: And you've agreed on some answer?
Surely, men wise as you three
are --

MELCHIOR: No -- we've never agreed. Except
on one thing -- each of us feels
the same way. It must be -- the
star was sent by some power greater
than we know -- we must follow it.

- HEROD: (PROBING) Surely, there must be more.
- CASPAR: No, it's as Melchior said --
- HEROD: But three Wise Men would question further -- would want an answer before they'd take such a long journey in search of such a nebulous thing --
- CASPAR: If there is any consolation in being wise, Majesty, it's that you know at some point knowledge must end -- and where knowledge ends, ah, there believing begins --
- HEROD: I see. So you'll search till you find him?
- CASPAR: We must. We must worship him -- we must lay our gifts before him --
- HEROD: (CRAFTILY) Well, then, surely I can do no less myself -- Such a Child born in my province -- surely I should pay him honor too. And I will. Wise Men -- do me a great favor --
- CASPAR: If we can --
- HEROD: You can. It's a simple thing. When you find the Child come back to me -- let me know where he is -- who his parents are -- I -- I want to worship him too.
- CASPAR: Majesty, we will do it on our way back.
- HEROD: Good -- good -- this Child shall receive such attention as was never paid to any Child before. Believe me.

MUSIC: _ _ _ BRIDGE #4 _ _ _ _ _

HEROD: (LAUGHING) Well, Asah, no need to fear now. And no need to search for the Child either.

ASAH: You've got news I haven't heard, Majesty?

HEROD: The Child will be found for me.

ASAH: The three men --

HEROD: (LAUGHING) The three -- Wise -- Men, yes.

ASAH: Are you sure they know?

HEROD: I'm convinced of it. A star -- they follow a star.

ASAH: Then maybe we should follow them?

HEROD: Don't upset anything. Don't make them suspicious. They'll bring the Child to me, or me to the Child. Either way I'll make short shrift of this -- King! (LAUGHS)

MUSIC: _ _ _ BRIDGE #5 _ _ _ _ _

SOUND: (CAMELS' HOOVES IN ECHO. INDICATE BY OTHER SILENCE IT IS NIGHT AND PEACEFUL)

CASFAR: Night again -- the nights feel better than the days now.

MELCHIOR: It's because of the star up there.

BALTHAZAR: Yes, when we can see the star at night everything else seems clear and bright too.

MELCHIOR: You're right, Balthazar. And yet what the king said today troubled me a little -- we are three men wise in years -- and yet we place our faith in a star --

BALTHAZAR: Believing -- as Caspar said -- it's believing.

CASPAR: Yes. And we must be near the end of our long search.

BALTHAZAR: What town did the man say lies ahead?

CASPAR: Bethlehem, it's called. And we can see its lights already...We'll be there soon.

SOUND: (UP)

MUSIC: _ _ _ BRIDGE #6 -- UP TO COVER _ _ _ _ _

SOUND: (DOOR KNOCK)

CASPAR: To intrude so late at night --

MELCHIOR: We must.

CASPAR: This is the place, isn't it?

BALTHAZAR: We've been to all the other inns. It's this inn, no doubt.

SOUND: (DOOR KNOCK)

EZRA: (OFF MIKE) Who's there? No room -- no room --

CASPAR: We've come seeking a Child here.

SOUND: (HURRIED UNBOLT OF DOOR AND OPEN)

EZRA: The Child? You too?

CASPAR: You mean there were others?

EZRA: Shepherds -- came a few nights ago
 -- just as you do.

CASPAR: Did you hear, my friends? Others
 have sought him out too. This is
 indeed the Child. May we enter?

EZRA: I told you there's no room.

CASPAR: We only want to see the Child.

EZRA: Then come in -- it's this way --
 they're no longer in the stable.
 Come.

SOUND: (LIGHT FOOTSTEPS ON WOOD FLOORING)

EZRA: (HOARSE WHISPER) This room -- here --

SOUND: (LIGHT KNOCK. LIFT LATCH AND OPEN)

JOSEPH: Yes? Who are you?

EZRA: The Child -- everyone wants to see
 the Child.

JOSEPH: You three -- you've come to see the
 Child?

CASPAR: Yes, friend. Who are you?

JOSEPH: My name is Joseph -- a humble car-
 penter chosen for a duty I hope I'm
 worthy to fulfill.

CASPAR: The Child -- the Mother --

JOSEPH: In here, my friends -- but softly
 -- for he sleeps --

CASPAR: Yes, softly.

SOUND: (LIGHT FOOTSTEPS)

MUSIC: BRIDGE #7-A - SET UP SHIMMER IN
 BACKGROUND - - - - -

CASPAR: (HALF AUDIBLE WHISPER OF AWE AS HE
 SIGHTS THE CHILD) The Child -- we
 must kneel, brothers --

SOUND: (LIGHT SOUND EFFECT TO INDICATE
 KNEELING)

JOSEPH: (SOFTLY) Mary - Mary, they worship Him.

MUSIC: BRIDGE #7B AND 7C - UP SHIMMER VERY
- - - - - BRIEFLY AND DOWN FOR - - - - -

CASPAR: (AS THOUGH COMING OUT OF REVERIE)
And the Mother --

BALTHAZAR: We've sought you and the Child a
long time across desert waste and
plains and mountains. We came
seeking you! If I stare, my Lady,
forgive me -- for such a face as
yours I've never seen before --

MELCHIOR: And shall never see again. But the
gifts, brothers --

CASPAR: Yes, the gifts -- for the Child,
Joseph -- we've brought him gifts
-- I lay mine at his feet -- gold --

MELCHIOR: (WITH GESTURE OF PRESENTATION)
Frankincense --

BALTHAZAR: (IN LIKE TONE) Myrrh --

JOSEPH: (TOUCHED) Gifts -- Mary, gifts for
the Child --

MUSIC: - - - SHIMMER UP AND TO BRIDGE #7D - - -

SOUND: (DOOR BEING LOCKED AND BOLT SLIPPED
INTO PLACE)

CASPAR: And so we've seen the Child --

MELCHIOR: And King Herod who asked about Him?
What shall we do?

CASPAR: It's too late to return to Jerusa-
lem tonight. We shall rest here in
Bethlehem.

BALTHAZAR: And tomorrow we return to Herod?

CASPAR: Tomorrow, Balthazar, we shall see.

MUSIC: - - - BRIEF BRIDGE #8 AND DOWN FOR - - -

BALTHAZAR: Caspar - Caspar - wake - speak to us

CASPAR: (COMING OUT OF SLEEP DISTRESSED) I have heard -- I have heard --

MELCHIOR: What is it -- why did you toss in your sleep -- why did you talk? What happened --

CASPAR: A dream -- a dream in which I heard the voice of God --

MELCHIOR: Caspar!

CASPAR: I heard it, Melchior -- and we must go -- we must leave here at once --

MELCHIOR: Leave? But in the morning we return to Herod --

CASPAR: No -- no, we daren't do that.

MELCHIOR: What is it, Caspar? What's happened?

CASPAR: I told you -- the voice in the dream. It said not to return to Herod -- to leave this country at once. There is danger here -- great danger --

MELCHIOR: Danger -- to whom?

CASPAR: Danger to us -- to others -- we must leave here.

MELCHIOR: Then we won't return to Herod. We'll leave for home -- in the morning.

CASPAR: Not in the morning -- but now -- at once.

MELCHIOR: In the dead of night?

CASPAR: (FRANTIC) At once -- at once, do you hear, brothers? We must leave

(Continued)

CASPAR: now -- and we must travel a different
(Cont'd) route this time -- for there is
great danger.

MUSIC: _ _ _ UP_TO BRIDGE_#9 _ _ _ _ _

HEROD: (FRANTIC) Asah! Asah!

ASAH: (FADING ON) Yes, Majesty --

HEROD: There must have been some word of
those three -- the Wise Men --

ASAH: Nothing, yet, Majesty. I await
reports every moment.

HEROD: But they said they would return --

ASAH: They didn't return --

HEROD: And no trace of them? Is Bethlehem
so big a place that my own guard
can't find them there --

ASAH: They've escaped -- I told you --

HEROD: Quiet!

ASAH: Yes, Majesty --

SOUND: (FOOTSTEPS FADING ON)

HEROD: Ah, Akkub -- you've found them --
well?

AKKUB: Nothing, Majesty.

HEROD: They couldn't have disappeared off
the face of the earth.

AKKUB: They might as well have --

HEROD: Surely someone must have seen them
in Bethlehem --

AKKUB: No one last night -- no one this morning -- they may never have arrived in Bethlehem for all we know.

HEROD: The priest said Bethlehem was the only place where the Child could have been born.

AKKUB: But no one saw the three old men --

ASAH: (FEARFUL) Majesty --

HEROD: Yes?

ASAH: Majesty, would the people ever cooperate with you? Would they tell you if they did see?

HEROD: You mean the three might have been there -- found the Child and gone?

ASAH: Why not? And who would tell Herod's guard?

HEROD: Yes -- yes.

ASAH: We shouldn't waste time with the three men --

HEROD: You're right -- the Child. The old men can do me no harm -- but the Child. The new-born King!

ASAH: Yes, Majesty, the new King!

HEROD: He must die.

ASAH: He must be found first.

HEROD: He must die!

ASAH: But how can we -- we must find him first.

HEROD: We may be able to kill him without finding Him. Did you ever think of that, Asah?

ASAH: Majesty -- please -- we mustn't lose our heads --

HEROD: (IN RAGE) You think I'm insane -- you think I don't know what I'm talking about, you wretch --
(SEIZES HIM)

ASAH: (QUIVERING) No, Majesty, no. But in one's excitement one can say things --

HEROD: (VICIOUSLY) Can one? Well, I happen to know what I said -- and what I mean. Even if we never find out which child it is -- he shall still die in his cradle!

ASAH: (QUIVERING) But, Majesty --

HEROD: (THRUSTING HIM AWAY FROM HIM) You fool! To kill the one Child I fear, I may have to kill them all --

ASAH: (STUNNED) Majesty --

HEROD: And why do you stand there looking like that?

ASAH: The people would complain to Rome.

HEROD: Let them --

ASAH: But such brutality --

HEROD: And what will Rome say? "This Herod is a man of power and principle -- he killed his own son, didn't he?" Well, didn't I?

ASAH: Majesty -- please -- others will hear --

HEROD: Let them hear! You think it was ever a secret -- they talk about

(Continued)

HEROD: me behind my back. I know it. I
(Cont'd) know it. I can tell -- every curtain and hanging in this palace seems to whisper about me with every stirring breeze. I am King. And I have no secrets. And I'm strong. So, I have no fear. Every child!

ASAH: But, Majesty --

HEROD: (FIGURING) The Child is new-born -- well, what does new-born mean -- a day -- a week -- a month -- a year? I will not be cheated by technicalities -- I order it now that every child not yet two years old shall be considered new-born for the purpose of this action.

ASAH: Every child up to two years old -- that's more than a few.

HEROD: I don't care if it's more than a great many. That's the order. Did you hear that, Akkub?

AKKUB: (STUNNED) Yes, Majesty --

HEROD: Well, that's not all -- we must be sure. I must be sure.

AKKUB: What else is there to think of, Majesty -- isn't it enough?

HEROD: (THINKING) Wait -- wait -- because the Child was born in Bethlehem does that mean it must still be there? Perhaps they've moved the Child -- are moving it even now.

ASAH: Who would move a new-born child unless in great emergency?

HEROD: I told you -- I won't be defeated by any technicalities -- the prophecy said Bethlehem -- but maybe the prophecy is elastic. After all it was made hundreds of years ago -- we must be sure.

ASAH: Bethlehem has been Bethlehem for hundreds of years.

HEROD: Still I will be sure.

AKKUB: Asah is right, Majesty -- Bethlehem is Bethlehem --

HEROD: Bring me a campaign map -- there -- that one on the table --

AKKUB: (FADING) Yes, Majesty.

HEROD: (MUSING ALOUD) A Child -- a Child -- how could it be that --

AKKUB: (INTERRUPTING) The map, Majesty --

HEROD: Bethlehem!

AKKUB: Here, Majesty --

HEROD: Something to make a mark quickly! No -- never mind -- I'll do it this way --

SOUND: (TEARING OF HEAVY PAPER)

AKKUB: Majesty, you destroy the map --

HEROD: (STILL WORKING) I know.

SOUND: (FINAL TEAR)

HEROD: There, Akkub -- this part of the map you take with you. It is Bethlehem and every town around it, just in case they tried to escape me. Every

(Continued)

HEROD: child everywhere -- in towns -- or
(Cont'd) farmhouses -- or on the roads --
wherever you find them. (PAUSE)
Hold out your hand --

AKKUB: Yes, Majesty --

HEROD: I place this part of the map in
your hand -- close your fist!

AKKUB: (FORCEFUL) Yes, Majesty.

HEROD: Now go -- and don't return to me
-- don't give back to me this piece
of map until it becomes proof!
Proof of the fact that every child
up to two years of age in this
whole area is dead, whether found
in a town, a field, or on the road.

AKKUB: Yes. Majesty.

MUSIC: _ _ _ BRIDGE #10 _ _ _ _ _

HEROD: How long can it take --

ASAH: Please, Majesty -- calm yourself --
the order is being carried out.

HEROD: I know, I know. And yet I can't
seem to rest till I hear it from
Akkub himself --

ASAH: This is a day they won't forget --

HEROD: Don't worry about them --

AKKUB: (FADING ON) Majesty -- Majesty --

HEROD: Well, Akkub?

AKKUB: (DAZED FROM HIS EXPERIENCE) Done,
Majesty -- done --

HEROD: Ah! The piece of the map --

AKKUB: Here -- Majesty, here --

HEROD: Good -- well done, Akkub, there'll be a reward for --

AKKUB: (BEGINS UNCONTROLLABLE SOBBING)

HEROD: Akkub! Akkub -- what is it? Speak!

AKKUB: (SOBS)

ASAH: (PAUSE) Majesty, he's -- Akkub is not himself anymore.

HEROD: Take the blithering fool out of here. The job is done. I wonder -- just where -- just when -- did that one Child -- that new-born King -- die!? It would be interesting to know that, Asah. Well, in any event -- He's dead -- dead -- and that's all that matters.

MUSIC: BRIDGE #11 SEGUE TO NIGHT-TIME
- - - - - THEME AND DOWN TO BLEND INTO SOUND:

SOUND: (LIGHT HOLLOW DONKEY HOOVES SLOWLY ON ROAD)

JOSEPH: It's been a long night, Mary. And Judaea is almost behind us, now.

SOUND: (UP VERY BRIEFLY AND DOWN FOR)

JOSEPH: Once our people fled from Egypt, now we flee there for safety. Over the same road -- through the same desert of Sinai. Even past The Mount where The Ten Commandments were handed down. I wonder what danger the angel came to warn us about? But it is not my place to question a voice from the heavens. We shall follow the voice of the

(Continued)

JOSEPH: angel now, as we did before. All
(Cont'd) will be well for you, Mary -- and
for the Child. (PAUSE) Whoa --
whoa --

SOUND: (DONKEY OUT)

JOSEPH: We must stop here a moment, Mary.
For this is our land -- and this
is the last we shall see of it for
a long time. (WHILE LOOKING) Dark
and peaceful seems the land of
Israel now. But beneath the dark-
ness, turmoil and strife and suf-
fering. I don't like to leave
Israel to its agony. But one day,
Mary, the word of the angel shall
come to us again as it was promised
-- and then we shall return -- we
shall return, Mary -- to Israel,
land of our forefathers. And the
Child shall be with us.

SOUND: (DONKEY HOOFBEATS BEGIN AGAIN AND
FADE SLOWLY)

MUSIC: BRIDGE #12 - AVE MARIA (SCHUBERT)
UP TO COVER GRADUALLY AND THEN FULL
-- -- -- -- ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS TO FINISH -- --

NARRATOR: This program was brought to you by
the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Com-
pany, and was the second of our
Christmas-season dramas. Next week
on this same network at this time
we will present another episode in
The Greatest Story Ever Told from
the greatest life ever lived.

MUSIC: -- -- CUSHION - CLOSING THEME. -- -- -- --

